

## **BUILDING SOLIDARITY BETWEEN US AND CUBAN WOMEN BY ENDING THE US BLOCKADE AGAINST CUBA**

**WHEREAS**, since 2005, the National Organization for Women's (NOW's) Global Feminist Task Force (now National Committee) has organized and co-sponsored numerous United States women's delegations to Cuba for International Women's Day Celebrations, International Feminist Conferences and various exchanges that foster the advancement of Cuban and U.S. women's rights agendas, and these actions support NOW's priority issues of women's human rights, racial justice, economic equity and peace; and

**WHEREAS**, Cuba is at the forefront of advancing women's human rights globally by their guarantees of health care and education as human rights, including a health care system that centers reproductive, sexual, LGBTQIA+, maternal/infant health care and rights; and

**WHEREAS**, Cuba's prioritization of gender equity and equality is reflected in the high levels of Cuban women working in the fields of law, government, business, education and healthcare; and

**WHEREAS**, over 60% of Cuba's health and science professionals are women in a field that is unable to collaborate with colleagues in the U.S. to share cutting edge vaccines, bio-technological discoveries, and innovative public health practices for all; and US women suffer as a result of not having access to Cuban innovation, education and health care and would greatly benefit by collaborative opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, the NOW Board of Directors endorsed the US Feminist Foreign Policy Campaign in conjunction with 150+ organizations and the International Center for Research on Women, along with the National Action Center (NAC) endorsement of the Organizing for Solidarity Campaign uplifting Black and Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) involvement and leadership, and both of these actions are consistent with policies and practices of Cuba's government; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the annual report delivered by Cuba at the United Nations on June 23, 2021, the 60-year-old US government embargo of Cuba has caused the loss of billions of dollars to Cuba's economy, and inhumane suffering to the Cuban people, in particular to women and children;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that NOW calls on the Biden Administration to follow the United Nations world community of countries who recently voted 123 to 2 for the 23rd time to end the US blockade against Cuba, and we call on the Biden Administration to uphold promises of their election campaign to continue discussion of normalization of mutually-beneficial US government relations with Cuba, to end the US extraterritorial embargo of Cuba, to remove Cuba from the spurious US list of State Sponsors of Terrorism, and to immediately reset Cuba relations to January 1, 2017, by reversing the 243 Trump executive actions intended to intensify the blockade/embargo; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NOW endorses Senate Bill S.249, the United States-Cuba Trade Act, which lifts all US economic sanctions on Cuba including travel and remittances; and NOW also endorses S.1694, Freedom to Export to Cuba, co-led by Sen. Amy Klobuchar; and further urges US Senators to co-sponsor and vote in support of these bills; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NOW advocates in partnership with allied Non-governmental organizations (CODE Pink, Oxfam, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, US Women and Cuba Collaboration and more) that prioritize and organize humanitarian and material aid benefitting Cuban women and girls; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that NOW encourages interested members to travel to Cuba with the NOW Global Feminist National Committee and allied sister organizations to discover the realities of Cuba and to expand the borders of peace and understanding by engaging Cuban women in active and meaningful sisterhood and solidarity.

*Submitted by Cindy Domingo and Kathryn Hall-Trujillo, US Women and Cuba Collaboration ~ July 8, 2021*